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A DIRECTORY

For the Managing of the Royal Trade of Fishing with Nets, Hooks, and Line, in an Experimental way, for all those that shall employ a Stock therein.

Set forth by SIMON SMITH, Agent for the Royal Fishings of Great Britain and Ireland.



HO having by his former Books, called, *The Herring Buss Trade*, and his Narrative of the Royal Fishings, given directions for Building of Busses, and the charge of the Nets and Provisions, taking and curing the Herrings and Cod, and vending the same, with the Netherlands Orders for the well-governing the Fishermen and others. It remains now to shew, how it is to be put into action, his Majesty having declared first, by his Letter, and since by his Letters Patents, that his great design in making it a National work, is, to set up the several Manufactures thereof, for the employment of all his poor Subjects to get their livings thereby, and for encreasing of Trade both by Sea and Land. And seeing that the Manufactures belonging to, the making of the Nets, must first be learned by those that are to be set on work, there must be Teachers entertained in every Ward, Hamblet, Town and County, (for the Netherlands, with whom we are to encounter, have practised this Fishing-Trade a hundred years and upwards, of whom we are now to learn.) Therefore Hemp-dressers must be gotten to beat and hatchel the Hemp, who may have Blocks, Beetles, and Hatchels provided, and set up in the most convenient places, where Vagrants may be brought to work; and Twine-Spinners and Norrellers may have Wheels and Posts &c. to employ the Boys and Girls in spinning and twisting the Twine. Also Rope-makers to make Net-Ropes, Way-Ropes, Coyles, &c. Also Beetlers and Braiders for the making of Deeplings and Nets, who are to have Needles, Pins, and Rises, &c. to work withal; and Tanners for Tanning and Drying the Deeplings and Nets, &c. Which being accomplished, then a Tan-house is to be erected near the *Thames*, or Rivers for water, and convenient grounds adjoining, to hail the Nets out of the Copper to their drying-place. Next to instruct Coopers for the making of Herring-Barrels, according to the Hollanders manner, with short Chynes, and most with Willow Hoops, and get the Clap-board cut just of the skantling of a Barrel, and the Heads also. This work each Cooper will perform at his own house; and when he hath a quantity fitted to raise, he may then bring them to the Store house, and make them up there. And to provide Hemp, Tools, and Teachers, for the making of Deeplings and Nets, as is before mentioned, whereby the poor may learn the Trades, and be employed to get their livings. It is requisite, that some of the Monies collected by the Briefs may be used for performing the same, notwithstanding the Letters Patents mentions it to be for the erecting of Wharfs, Docks, Store-houses, and Granaries; But the scope and true meaning thereof is, to bear all other charges, as setting up Tan-houses, with Coppers for Tanning of the Deeplings and Nets, and providing Implements for the working-poor, and to pay the Officers and Ministers that shall be elected, constituted, and deputed, by the Council of the Royal Fishings. Also to furnish a Lottery for advancing of more monies, which will plentifully perform all things that is to be done. For in many Parishes there have been large Collections, whereof a true account is kept, and when all is brought in, shall be published in particulars, and how the same is issued out, the better to give satisfaction to those that are doubting of a right employment thereof. Now for raising Stocks in every Ward, Hamblet, Town and County, for the building of a Buss, to be set out to the Fishing grounds, as is expressed in the Book, called, *The Narrative of the Royal Fishings*, I shall leave it to the discretion of those that are best versed therein. When as they find the poor people are able to make the Deeplings, for until a good quantity of Nets be made ready, it is in vain to build Busses, Wharfs, Docks, Storehouses, &c. or make Herring-Barrels, or other Provisions, before Nets, Hooks, and Lines, for taking the Herrings and Codd, &c. be made ready to perform the same. And if any have a desire himself alone, or in association with others, to set out a Buss, or more, to be ready against the last of May, whereby to begin the Fishing for pickled Herrings of *Shotland*, where the first Skole of Herrings ariseth in June following, as is expressed in the Book, called, *The Royal Herring Buss Fishing*; he is first to get him a knowing man, to act his business for him, according to the Rules in the said Book set down exactly; and so with God's blessing he may find that employment very profitable for him, and in two or three years double his Stock, buying all his provisions in the frugallest way, with ready money, both Hemp to make his Nets, Lines Cordage, &c. and Clap-boards to make his Barrels, and Timber, Iron, Pitch, Tar, Rolen, Deals, Masts, Canvass, &c. for building his Busses, Boats, &c. Also his Salt and Victualling, and all Utensils belonging, at the best hand. Then getting a good Fisherman for Master of the Buss to provide his own Company, being fourteen Men and a Boy, whereof five to be good Gippers, Packers, and Coopers, and the rest common Mariners, for putting out and hailing in the Nets, and for Stowage; the Master may agree with them, either by Wages, or by Shares, as best he can; and after one years experience gained, the Owner may order the employment better and better, having the Accommodation of a Tan-house, Wharfs, Docks, Store-houses, &c. may there have a Fleet of Nets, Cask, Salt, and all other Provisions in readiness against the return of the Buss; who after the landing of her Fish and Nets, which are presently to be washed out, Peeted, and Tanned, and her Fish made Merchantable, the Buss is presently to take fresh Nets, Salt, Cask, Victuals, and all Necessaries, and return to the Fishing grounds again; and the Herrings and Cod is to be distributed unto the Victualling Houses, Inns, Taverns, and Ale-houses, as by the Commission is directed, which is great encouragement, besides all other privileges.

And whereas divers self-seeking Merchants and others, are procuring to buy Vessels, Nets, Cask, and all other Materials used for the Fishings, of the Hollanders, out of a covetous desire to take the benefit of our home-vent, being 30 s. a Barrel, which will turn them to great profit, not regarding the miserable condition of our own Poor, who are ready to perish, without present relief in the Employment, by the several Manufactures: Therefore it is high time to set out a Declaration, prohibiting the buying of *Hollands* Busses, Nets, or any their Manufactures; and to declare, that none are to have any benefit by the privileges granted, but those that employ the Poor in making their Nets, and Coopers in making their Casks, Shipwrights to build their Busses and Boats, and Rope-makers, Smiths, and all other Manufactures belonging.

And when as the Herrings and Barrel-Cod shall exceed their home-vent, whereby they must seek out Forreign vent (which God grant) before the seven years expire, that is limited for free Custome, Inwards of the proceed of the Fish granted by his Majesty; The Pickled Herrings vended in *Eastland*, within the *Baltick Sea*, for *Poland*, *Leiffland*, and those parts, the Returns will be in Hemp, Clap-boards, Deals, Masts, Pitch, Tar, Corn, and such like Commodities; and from *France* in Salt, Rossen, Cork, Sail-cloth, Brandy, which are useful for the Fishings, and pays but small Customs.

Now whereas the Right Honorable the Lord High Treasurer of *England*, being informed by some friends of the Hollanders, That his Majesty's Grant of seven years of free Customs of the Returns Inwards of the Fish vended in Forreign parts, will amount unto two hundred thousand pounds a year: I answer, first, That the forreign Vent must amount unto two millions of pounds, to produce two hundred thousand pounds Customs, which all men will judge it impossible, although a thousand Busses should be built, and all the Fish they take be exported. Secondly, I answer and say, That one year at least of the seven will be spent in teaching the poor people and others to make the Deeplings, and all Manufactures thereto belonging; and two or three years more will be spent in making the Deeplings and Nets, whereof a considerable quantity, at least five or six thousand Nets, must be for the setting out of a hundred Busses to take the Herrings. Then if within a year or two more there can be a thousand Busses builded and fitted out, they will be employed in fishing our own Fishing-grounds to serve our own Nation; which the Hollanders have a long time enjoyed, and thereby exhausted our Treasure, as is fully set forth in many Treatises written thereof, to which I refer the Reader. In all this time it must be granted, that His Majesty loseth no Customs; wishing it may so prosper and encrease, that after the seven years expired, his Majesty's Customs may be doubled thereby. All which I hope upon due consideration will undeceive all those that hearken unto false informations, raised to obstruct this so Royal and Laudable employment, hoping that God will stir up all those to whom he hath lent great Estates, to improve some Talent thereof unto the furthering of this great work, so as it may be most to God's honor and glory, whilst they are yet living; and at their departure to leave a blessing behind as an encrease of Stock to be for the maintaing this employment of the poor, in each Parish, Town, and County where they reside, which will be an acceptable Sacrifice, and well-pleasing unto God.